

# FRIENDS FORUM

Quarterly Newsletter of the Friends of the Carlsbad City Library ★ Carlsbad, California ★ May 2009



## Carlsbad Reads Together



Photo by Aicha Nystrom

Carlsbad Reads Together is presented annually by the Carlsbad City Library and is sponsored by the Friends of the Carlsbad Library. The program is designed to encourage a love of reading as well as provide community-wide dialogue.

The 2009 selection was *Funny in Farsi* by Firoozeh Dumas. The book describes Ms. Dumas' experience growing up Iranian in Southern California. *Funny in Farsi* takes a humorous look at one family's experiences adjusting to a very different lifestyle. The book has not only been well reviewed by the country's major newspapers but was a finalist for the PEN/USA award in 2004 and an Audie Award for best audio book in 2005. Additionally, Ms. Dumas was a finalist for the prestigious Thurber Prize for American Humor.

As part of Carlsbad Reads Together, discussion groups were held throughout April at both the Library on Dove Lane as well as the Georgina Cole Library. There was also a genealogical workshop about researching your family's past, film screenings, a program on early immigrants to Carlsbad, a workshop on memoir writing and an evening of Persian music, dance and food. The highlight of the program featured appearances by the author on April 23. Ms. Dumas discussed her work and signed copies of her books at the Cole Library at 3 p.m. on the 23rd and then at 8 p.m. at the Ruby G. Schulman Auditorium.

Those attending the sessions were treated to a talk that was both enlightening and very entertaining. Guests of all ages and ethnicities laughed together at Ms. Dumas' delightful sense of humor and gave her a very warm Carlsbad welcome that she's sure to remember!



Cole Library April 23 talk.

Photo by Karen Maynor

## Friends Silent Auction July 11 and 12

The Friends Annual Silent Auction will be held on Saturday and Sunday, July 11 and 12 in the Gowland Meeting Room at the Dove Library. As always, we have a fascinating assortment of unusual and sometimes quite valuable books. This includes coffee table books, new and vintage children's materials, antiquarian titles, sets, cookbooks and much more. Each item or group will have its own bid sheet with a stated minimum bid and increment to raise. At the conclusion of the Silent Auction, the last and highest bidder wins the item.

The Auction will be open on Saturday, July 11 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Sunday, July 12 from 1-3 p.m. Bidding ends at 3 p.m. on Sunday and successful bidders who are present may purchase their books then. Those who aren't present will have a week to claim their books at the Dove Circulation Desk.

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## *From Our Library Director...*

One of the most exciting moments of the Carlsbad Reads Together program this year was to go looking for a copy of the featured book *Funny in Farsi* in our libraries, only to find that all copies purchased by the Friends were checked out with multiple holds waiting to be filled. Together with the many copies sold through our bookstore partner, Borders Books and Music, this suggests that over 100 people were simultaneously reading our Carlsbad Reads Together book! Thus, the program has realized one of its chief purposes: to encourage those who live in, work in and visit Carlsbad to engage in community dialogue and the pleasure of reading. We owe this successful program to the Friends.

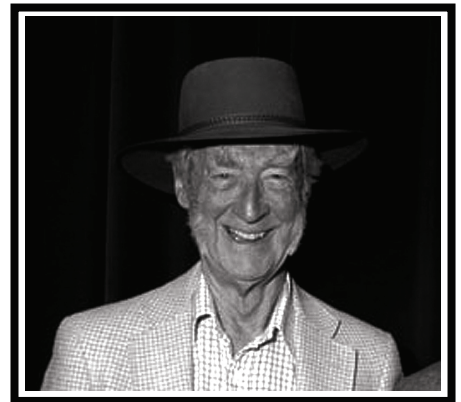


Balancing the excitement of this season is the challenge of continuing to offer high quality services while absorbing large funding losses. The next round of reductions stands to have direct impact on programs and services. The Library will still be here at a time when people most need our resources to find jobs, re-tool their skills, gain access to computers, and take advantage of programs for children, families and seniors living on reduced means. We are so grateful to the Friends for sustaining our ongoing programs and your increased support of our budget for library materials during this critical need.

*Heather Pizzuto, Library Director*

## *The Prez Sez...*

This year is an election year for the Friends. Elections are held every two years for a two-year term. A board member may hold an elected post for three terms. This year two of the elected officers are term-limited out and two others are not going to run again. So, the Friends have a total of four vacancies to fill. At the last Board meeting (March 19) I appointed a nominating committee of three members to seek out candidates for office. The vacancies are President, 1st Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. This committee will report to the Board at the next meeting (May 21) with a recommended slate. This proposed slate will be presented to the Membership at the Annual Meeting (June 25) for a vote. Nominations can also be made at the meeting.



The Friends Finance Committee met with Library Staff on May 7 to discuss the Library's request for future funding. The committee will be Maureen Tracy, Finance Chair, Beth Hulsart, John Gallery, Ed Bauman and Arthur Wood. More on this in the next issue.

Since a new President will be elected in June, this will be my last "The Prez Sez." Thanks to all who helped me so much over the last six years as President and wishing the Friends all the best for the future.

*Arthur Wood, Friends President*

**Save the Date!** The Friends of the Library will host its annual meeting at the Dove Library on **Thursday, June 25**, with a reception from 4-5 p.m. and the meeting beginning at 5 p.m. The social hour always features delicious food and drinks as well as the music of Sandy DeVito.

# A Farewell Thanks from Arthur Wood

Looking back on the past six years as President, I realize that the things that were accomplished would not have been possible without the work done by the talented and tireless Board members. Under chairperson Mary Melideo, we reviewed and revised our by-laws. Mary died in office a few years back and she is sorely missed.

When the Library needed to re-build the Children's Garden at Dove, we voted to pay for all the changes. Beth Hulsart put together a team of volunteers who handled the opening day festivities.

The computer skills of Frank Volpe came into play when he updated our membership records, so that we have a day-by-day count of our active membership. And the FORUM came in for some updating changes under the editorship of Karin Stanton, and later Bruce Meyer.

Jackie Willis started as our Membership Coordinator, followed eventually by Vicky Tarulis, and we have an up-to-date roster of our invaluable volunteers, who work so hard to raise the money that makes possible all we have done and are doing to support the Library.

Not to be forgotten are Maureen Tracy, sales manager at Cole and Taffy Cannon, manager at Dove. Most of our income comes from these two sources. Our regular mailings of the FORUM and other notices have been handled by Pat Hansen, who also acts as our historian.

Our secretary for the past six years, Naomi Marblestone, also deserves a pat on the back. I know that I have missed a lot of other volunteers who deserve mention, but we would need a full issue of the FORUM to do justice. So, with apologies to those unnamed, thanks to all of you.

## Stellaluna Turns Sweet Sixteen

Back in 1993 when *Stellaluna* was first published, Janell Cannon was the Carlsbad City Library's graphic artist. Her first book signing ever was at the Cole Library, and the book became an instant classic. Millions of copies in dozens of languages later, she'll be back to celebrate *Stellaluna*'s birthday and sign books as part of the Family Open Studios Plus program on Saturday, May 30. Tears of Joy Puppet Theatre will give free *Stellaluna* performances at 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. in the Dove Library's Auditorium, with the signing to follow the 1 p.m. performance. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Friends, whose logo she designed and whose membership brochure still includes her drawings.



## Staff Recommendations: An Eclectic List of New Books

by Susan Simpson, Head of Collection Development and Acquisitions

*American Family: The Buckleys* by Reid Buckley

*Brain Surgeon: A Doctor's Inspiring Encounters With Mortality and Miracles* by Keith Black, M.D.

*From Egypt to Babylon: The International Age 1550 – 500 B.C.* by Paul Collins

*Homeowner's Guide to Managing a Renovation* by Susan Solakian

*150 Best Recession-Proof Jobs* edited by Laurence Shatkin, PhD.

*Palm Springs-Style Gardening* by Maureen Gilmer

*Pictures at a Revolution: Five Movies and the Birth of the New Hollywood* by Mark Harris

*Stolen Moments: the Photographs of Ronny Jacques*

*Woof! Writers on Dogs* edited by Lee Montgomery

*Wounded Warrior Handbook: A Resource Guide for Returning Veterans* by Don Philpott and Janelle Hill

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- ☐ Silent Auction
- ☐ Special Project
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**ADDITIONAL DONATION:** I've enclosed an additional \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to help the Friends

Committee Use Only